Dogs of Peace: A Fantasia on the Hardship of Being Written by Brett Wolfe

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CONTENT DISCLOSURES*: Animal cruelty/death, Death, Drugs, Homophobia, Mental Illness, PTSD, Racism, Self-Harm, Sexual Abuse, Suicide, Transphobia, mentions of Terminal Illness, Violence, partial nudity

*This is content that is both included in this packet and in links throughout the pages to other sources.

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Characters of Dogs of Peace

Page directly derived from the script

Amber, daughter of Carol and Adam April/Ethan, s/o of Amber, child of Jeanine and Kurt, veterinarian

Kurt, dad of April/Ethan, husband to Jeanine, elder at Christ Gospel Fellowship, has a blind eye *Carol*, mother of Amber widowed to her husband Adam *Jeanine*, mother of April/Ethan, wife of Kurt

Jesus, a woman, patient at Deaconess hospital

Dr. Kitzingen "Kitz", psychologist, doctor of James and Jesus

Saint James, war veteran, elder at Christ Gospel Fellowship, patient at Deaconess hospital.

Crathan, estranged pastor of Christ Gospel Fellowship, may have a New Hampshire accent Elder 1, a man, of Christ Gospel Fellowship

Elder 2, a woman, of Christ Gospel Fellowship

Elder 3, a man, of Christ Gospel Fellowship

Pontius, prostitute

Id, representative from the Southern Baptist Convention

Inita, veterinarian assistant

Man, patient at Deaconess

Police Officer

Hospital Attendant

Playwright, (the playwright may be any gender, age, ethnicity)

Roles may be doubled. Pontius and Kitz should be played by the same actor. Jesus and Inita should be played by the same actor.

Show Synopsis

by Brett Wolfe

A dysfunctional and predatory church, struck in grief from their pastor's unexplained suicide, is affronted by a woman in a psychiatric ward claiming to be Jesus. In the unraveling their livelihoods, these people grapple living in a world without any light to lead them.

Dogs of Peace—through absurdity and experimentation—reveals the true hardship that we encounter simply by being human, yet reminding us to still press on despite our suffering.

Dramaturgical Note

By Alexandria Nance

"Perhaps the truth that finds its way to your heart is something you already know."

The world of *Dogs of Peace: A Fantasia in the Hardship of Being* is one rooted in the questions of religion, morality, and human connection. We find our characters intertwined through the workings of the Christ Gospel Fellowship, a church within the Southern Baptist Convention. The denomination was founded in 1845 as Civil War tensions were growing in the United States of America. Now one of the most common Christian denominations in the Southern U.S. it strictly abides to the words of the bible, and strongly believes in family values. We see the members of our church, the Christ Gospel Fellowship, grapple with their connection to their faith and families as their connection to God is tested and questioned.

Abide with me

Abide with me is a hymn by Henry Lite written as a farewell sermon as he was dying. The hymn is a plea to God, asking for his presence in every stage of life. In this show we experience every corner of the human experience: grief, joy, love, hate, indifference, and the overwhelmingly indescribable moments we feel in between. So please, abide with us and open your hearts and minds to what these characters are telling you. The good, bad, and *ugly*.

Name Analysis

Adam/Man

Adam (in the <u>book of Genesis</u>) is the first human God created in the bible, and the beginning of 'mankind'. The name is defined as "the dust of the ground", and from Adam's rib God forms the first woman, Eve. When both Adam and Eve are placed in the Garden of Eden, Eve is enticed by the serpent to eat the forbidden fruit and then convinces Adam to also indulge. From that decision Adam is condemned by God to labor for his food and return it on his death (i.e. returns to the earth). In several passages in Genesis he is referred to only as 'Man'.

Saint James

<u>Saint James</u> was one of Jesus's 12 apostles, and one of the only two apostles whose death is recorded in the bible. He is also referred to as James the Greater, likely referencing he was the older or taller of his brother. In the bible we first meet James as a fisherman. We also hear James and his brother referred to as "Sons of thunder".



Pontius (pronunciation)

<u>Pontius Pilate</u> was the fifth governor of Judaea, and he is best known as the official who presided over the <u>trial of Jesus</u>. He was ultimately the one to order the crucifixion of Jesus. Throughout history he is depicted as a weak ruler who the Jews commanded to kill Jesus. Other interpretations suggest he had other motives.



Deaconess

The word comes from the <u>Greek diakonos</u> (διάκονος), for "deacon", which means a servant or helper.

Themes and Messages

Religion

Southern Baptist Convention

Christian Baptist denomination, and largest Protestant denomination in the United States. Formed in 1845 in Augusta, Georgia after splitting from the Northern Baptists. The two denominations split when white supremacists supported maintaining slavery.





The Baptist denomination was first moved from Britain in the 17th century after persecution from the Church of England. In 1638 the first Baptist church was created in the Providence Plantations (Rhode Island) by Roger Williams (pictured left). Williams was a puritan minister who founded the Providence Plantations after being expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was an avid researcher of Native American languages, and an advocate for fair dealings with the Natives of the land.

During the American Revolution there was a rise in evangelical religious views, but there was also conflict between Anglican and American Baptists. American Baptist preachers were often prosecuted for not having license to preach from the Anglican Church. Thomas Jefferson wrote the <u>Virginia Statute for</u>

Religious Freedom in 1779, and was then enacted in 1786 by the Virginia General Assembly. Themes and ideas from the Statute were then incorporated into the American Constitution to ensure religious freedom.

American Baptists got their first national convention in 1814 when Luther Rice (pictured right) organized the Triennial Convention. Later the Home Mission Society was established connected to the convention in 1832 to support missions in United States Frontier territories.



After the Civil War the Southern Baptist Convention supported racial segregation, white supremacy, and organizations like the Klu Klux Klan and the Lost Cause of the Confederacy.

During the Civil Rights Movement the convention was against racial integration and continued to support white supremacy. In 1995 the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution to renounce and apologize for the racist roots of the organization.

21st Century news within the church includes denouncing the Alt-Right movement, calling on church members to stop flying the confederate flag, and a <u>sexual abuse scandal</u> in early 2022. Through that scandal, the SBC has released a list with all of the alleged sexual abusers within the Southern Baptist network.

Biblical Information

Here are sources for easily digestible biblical summaries

- Old Testament Video Playlist
- New Testament Video Playlist
- Old Testament in 5 Minutes

The Baptist Faith and Message

Here is the outline for the <u>core beliefs</u> of the Southern Baptist Convention. Quotes are directly from their website, and are a condensed version of the complete belief.

- I. The Scriptures "All scripture is totally true and trustworthy."
- II. God "There is one and only one living and true God."
 - A. God the Father "God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace."
 - B. God the Son "Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin."
 - C. God the Holy spirit "He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service."
- III. Man "Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation."
- IV. **Salvation** "Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer."

- V. God's Purpose of Grace "All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end."
- VI. **The Church** "Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord... While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."
- VII. **Baptism and the Lord's Supper** "Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit... The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming."
- VIII. **The Lord's Day** "The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance."
 - IX. **The Kingdom** "The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King."
 - X. Last Things "God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end."
 - XI. **Evangelism and Missions** "It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations... Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ."
- XII. **Education** "Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence... In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility."
- XIII. **Stewardship** "Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others."
- XIV. Cooperation "Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom."
- XV. The Christian and the Social Order "All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society... In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed,

- selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography."
- XVI. **Peace and War** "It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness."
- XVII. Religious Liberty "Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others... The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind."
- XVIII. The Family "Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race... A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ... Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord."

Organization of the Church

Churches within the SBC have autonomy over their own community, and formally agree to affiliate with the SBC, their faith, and through financial contributions. Churches within the SBC scope can send anywhere from 2 to 12 messengers to the annual convention (depending on factors outlined in their constitution). The amount of messengers is usually dependent on the financial contributions from an individual church to the organization overall. Messengers at the annual conventions have the opportunity to elect representatives for the overlying organization. A majority of the work done within the SBC is done through committees, and the SBC is also composed of 12 other entities such as the International Missions board and Executive Committee.

Each church has the ability to create their own form of organization within the church as long as it follows the Southern Baptist Convention governing documentation.

The choice to have Elders and other members of clergy is determined by individual churches

Pastors within the Church

Within the Southern Baptist Convention there are no national regulations for becoming a pastor to an individual church other than being male. The decision to elect a new pastor is decided by the individual churches council.

Typically seminary or higher education within religion is preferred. Many churches cite Timothy 3:1-7 and occasionally other verses to outline the pieces of scripture with behavior they value in a pastor.

Within the context of the show, Crathan has recently graduated from seminary school prior to becoming pastor of Christ Gospel Fellowship. <u>Seminary school</u> is an educational institution whose goal is to educate students to prepare them for service within a religious institution. Some seminaries are in tandem with a college education, resulting in a bachelor's degree. Some are in replacement or addition to a degree, providing a religious certification. Seminary schools can be used within a range of different denominations.

Mental Health

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

<u>Post traumatic stress disorder</u> symptoms begin within three months of a shocking, scary, or dangerous event. There are no requirements for the type of event to cause PTSD, and could be caused by a multitude of experiences. In order to be diagnosed with PTSD you must experience at least one re-experience symptom, one avoidance symptom, one arousal and reactivity symptom, and two cognition and mood symptoms within a month.

The primary treatments recommended for PTSD are psychotherapy (also known as talk therapy) and medication. It is recommended to be treated by a PTSD specialist, and also be aware of other comorbid conditions such as anxiety, depression, and substance abuse.

Veteran resources from the Veteran Affairs Office: https://www.ptsd.va.gov/understand/common/common veterans.asp

Firsthand interviews of veterans with PTSD

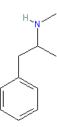
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWuWLHm98o8
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DF5caucKjI
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ps4hKECvNMg

Methamphetamine/LSD

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive substance that stimulates the central nervous system developed in the early 20th century that causes increased activity, decreased appetite, and euphoria. It is an illegal drug which appears as a crystal-like substance. In extremely regulated and minute doses, a drug with an almost identical chemical structure can be prescribed for ADHD or weight loss treatment under close supervision of a healthcare provider.



Occasionally with the use of methamphetamine can cause an onset of drug-induced psychosis. This is diagnosed only if the person does not have a history of psychotic symptoms prior to drug use, and the symptoms onset during the intoxication or withdrawal of the substance. Treatments for such psychosis often can include the use of antipsychotics, although a majority of drug induced psychosis typically resolve within a week without medical intervention.



<u>LSD</u> is a form of man-made psychedelic, which causes changes in perception, thought, hallucinations, and other changes in behavior. It can come in the form of a pill or in the form of a 'tab' (pictured below) that dissolves in the mouth.

- LSD Experience Simulation Video
- How to LSD

LSD is also known to be used as a date-rape drug in occasional settings. <u>Here</u> is a source for more information on date rape drugs.



Clonazolam

<u>Clonazolam</u> has a lack of research in use as a pharmaceutical, and has an extremely high potency which can cause overdose in doses as small as 0.5mg. It is not authorized for use in pharmaceuticals, and is only authorized for research.

It is a <u>benzodiazepine</u> which is a highly addictive form of medication. The effects of this category of medication can cause muscle relaxation, euphoria, and anti-anxiety. For clonazolam specifically, it can be known to cause sedation and possible amnesia.

In <u>drug tests</u>, Clonazolam will not show up individually. It will possibly (depending on the dose taken) show a positive for a different benzodiazepine.

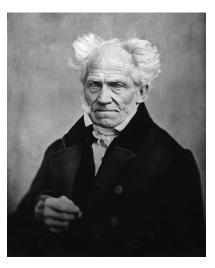
Delusions of Grandeur (Person believing they are God)

<u>Delusions of Grandeur</u> are delusions that include a warped perception of who they are. This can include believing they are a famous person, have special abilities, are a religious leader, and more. Typically these delusions are a result of a psychotic disorder such as schizophrenia, dementia, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, etc. <u>Treatment</u> typically includes treating the underlying disorder that is causing the delusions.

Psychiatrists

<u>Psychiatrists</u> are medical doctors that are qualified to assess mental and physical aspects of psychological problems. To become a psychiatrist you must complete medical school, and get a state license to practice medicine. They are able to perform and diagnose different forms of treatments such as medication, psychotherapy, and more specified treatments.

Arthur Schopenhaer



Schopenhauer is a German 19th century philosopher inspired by Plato and Kant, who argued that the universe is not rational. His PhD dissertation (1813), *The Fourfold Root of the Principle of Sufficient Reason*, contested the human assumption that everything has a reason and explanation.

Here is a digital edition of Schopenhauer's most notable book, *World as Will and Representation*.

Summary of his philosophies: Here

Podcast episodes to listen to about his philosophies:

• Philosophize This! By Stephen West, Episodes #098 & #099

Further Research

New Hampshire Accent

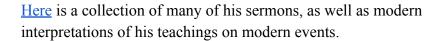
Here is a thorough academic description of the nuances of the New Hampshire accent.

Here are some fun and informative videos.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmxuG8xkgNw
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30YoS14Xlz4
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msCu00o61mk (7:00 to end)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgE0b-nk8u0

Billy Graham / SBC Sermons

Billy Graham is one of the most famous Southern Baptist ministers in history. He was known for his large and popular rallies, as well as for his sermons being broadcasted over television and radio. He was very well connected to political and world leaders such as members of congress, several presidents, and Queen Elizabeth II. He was an extremely influential leader within both religion and society.





Mortgage/Lien

"A mortgage is an agreement between you and a lender that gives the lender the right to take your property if you fail to repay the money you've borrowed plus interest."

The lender (typically a bank) provides the homeowner with the opportunity to purchase a house, and pay it off over the course of several years (ex. 30 years) with interval payments with interest. The lenders can put a *lien* on the home, which means they may take the home as collateral if the homeowner fails to pay.

Here are some video links to explain further:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBIJwb37O 4
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mU69g6Ao47A
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-uAurixCiU

Abide With Me Hymn

This <u>hymn</u> was written 175 years ago, and has continued to keep popularity since. In recent media, it was used in the <u>2012 Olympic opening ceremony</u>.

The repetition of the lyrics "abide with me" is a plea to God for his presence in every stage and condition of life.

The writer of this hymn, Henry Lite, wrote these lyrics as a part of his farewell speech when he was ill and dying of tuberculosis in 1847. He passed away 10 weeks after his final sermon. The lyrics have been put to several different melodies over the years with some keeping more popularity than others.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide

The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide

When other helpers fail and comforts flee

Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day

Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away

Change and decay in all around I see

O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless

Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness

Where is death's sting?

Where, grave, thy victory?

I triumph still, if Thou abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes

Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies

Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee

In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me

Abide with me, abide with me

Irreversible Damage (Terf) Ideology and Southern Baptist Ideals

Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminism (more commonly known as Terf) is an ideaology that targets transfeminine people. It is specifically used to isolate and exclude transgender women from women-only spaces. It is a very veiled practice, and without understanding the signs many feminist women can be tricked into supporting terf ideologies. Some signs that identify those who support the ideals can be signifiers such as XX (regarding to biological chromosomes), RadFem (radical feminism is another name for the ideology), "LGB community" (excluding the T), combating ideals that support affirming transgender children's identities, suggesting trans women are parading as men to get into sensitive spaces for women (such as bathrooms), and more. The exclusion of transgender women is harmful for a multitude of reasons, but mainly because transgender people already face a higher rate of violence, homelessness, sexual assault, healthcare discrimination, etc. and terf ideology puts up further barriers to prevent transgender women from services in place to support women.

Southern Baptist Convention official opinions on people who identify as transgender, (directly derived from the Southern Baptist Convention <u>website</u>)

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, June 10–11, 2014, affirm God's good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one's self-perception—a perception which is often influenced by fallen human nature in ways contrary to God's design (Ephesians 4:17–18); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we grieve the reality of human fallenness which can result in such biological manifestations as intersexuality or psychological manifestations as gender identity confusion and point all to the hope of the redemption of our bodies in Christ (Romans 8:23); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we extend love and compassion to those whose sexual self-understanding is shaped by a distressing conflict between their biological sex and their gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we invite all transgender persons to trust in Christ and to experience renewal in the Gospel (1 Timothy 1:15–16); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we love our transgender neighbors, seek their good always, welcome them to our churches and, as they repent and believe in Christ, receive

them into church membership (2 Corinthians 5:18–20; Galatians 5:14); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we regard our transgender neighbors as image-bearers of Almighty God and therefore condemn acts of abuse or bullying committed against them; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose efforts to alter one's bodily identity (e.g., cross-sex hormone therapy, gender reassignment surgery) to refashion it to conform with one's perceived gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we continue to oppose steadfastly all efforts by any governing official or body to validate transgender identity as morally praiseworthy (Isaiah 5:20); and be it further

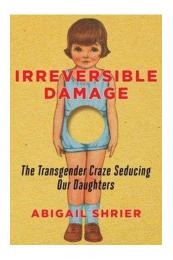
RESOLVED, That we oppose all cultural efforts to validate claims to transgender identity; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That our love for the Gospel and urgency for the Great Commission must include declaring the whole counsel of God, proclaiming what Scripture teaches about God's design for us as male and female persons created in His image and for His glory (Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 20:27; Romans 11:36).

Irreversible Damage Synopsis:

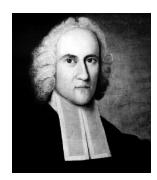
"In Irreversible Damage, Abigail Shrier provides a thought-provoking examination of a new clinical phenomenon mainly affecting adolescent females—what some have termed rapid-onset gender dysphoria—that has, at lightning speed, swept across North America and parts of Western Europe and Scandinavia."

<u>Here</u> is a counter-opinionated analysis video on the book with a plethora of quotes within the video from the book itself, and here is the <u>wikipedia</u> article.



Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God (quoted in scene: SHEPARD)

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God is a sermon written by Johnothan Edwards, a puritan New England preacher from Massachusetts. It was a catalyst for the Great Awakening in the United States, and it was Edwards goal to teach others the horrors of not being in God's favor. It was a part of a larger push to encourage those to seek out Jesus Christ.



Dogs of War

The phrase 'dogs of war' is from William Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar. The literal definition is "The havoc accompanying military conflict." but is also referred to as the destruction and chaos called by war. The title *Dogs of Peace* is a reference to this phrase.

Galatians 3:13

On page 10 of the script Crathan quotes the bible by saying "curs-ed is every man who hangs from a tree". This is a close translation of the New King James bible Galatians 3:13 "cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree". This is different from the New International Version bible, which is primarily used in the Southern Baptist Communities. Galatians 3:13 from the NIV bible is "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole". This provides a clue to Crathans character being raised in a different community and/or church. This will only be understood by audience members with deep understandings of either the New King James or New International Version bible.

"All people are inherently good..."

The discussion of if humans are born inherently good or evil has been talked about in length throughout history by different philosophers. Some believe humans are born with a clean moral slate, some believe we are born evil, and some believe we are born good. Jean-Jaques Rousseau who was heavily influential during the Age of Enlightenment and French Revolution in the 1700's, was one of the first to believe humans are inherently good. He believes that all humans are born good, but then corrupted by the nature of society. He references our need for self-preservation to find shelter, food, etc. but also our natural instinct to comfort and care for others. This opens the possibility that if goodness is human nature, then goodness is just the absence of evil corrupting our nature.

In Rousseau's writing, what separates humans from any other animal's natural instincts (the good) is freedom and perfectibility. Freedom is the ability to not solely be controlled

by our natural instincts. Whereas perfectibility is the ability to further and more efficiently satisfy our needs. These characteristics provide humans with the ability to achieve rationality, self-consciousness, and morality. This then opens up the opportunity for selfish, oppressive, dependent, and dominating behaviors that tip the moral scale away from our nature.

Biblical Connections

Show Content	Possible Biblical Connection
Pickle	Genesis 45:11 Jeramiah 29:18
Skeptical	Proverbs 25:26 Matthew 14:23
Cracked	Jeramiah 47:2
We	1 Corinthians 3:16
Anger	Matthew: 14:22-33
Empty	James 1:8
How Jesus is treated throughout the script	Matthew 25:31-40
Kurt, "has a blind eye."	Mark 8:22-25 John 9:1-7
Crathan persuading Adam to kill himself	Genesis 2:4-3:24 Galatians 3:13
Adam giving the church to Amber	Matthew 16:18-20

Glossary

Abomination: a thing that causes disgust or hatred.

Abrasive: (of a person or manner) showing little concern for the feelings of others; harsh.

Anointed: nominate or choose (someone) as successor to or leading candidate for a position.

Baptist: a member of a Protestant Christian denomination advocating baptism only of adult believers by total immersion. Baptists form one of the largest Protestant bodies and are found throughout the world and especially in the US.

Bulging: swelling outward; protruding.

Clad: clothed.

Choleric: bad-tempered or irritable.

Cognition: the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses.

Conviction: a firmly held belief or opinion.

Copious: abundant in supply or quantity.

Decaying: falling into disrepair; deteriorating. OR declining in quality, power, or vigor.

Disparate: essentially different in kind; not allowing comparison.

Divine: of, from, or like God or a god.

Entrenched: (of an attitude, habit, or belief) firmly established and difficult or unlikely to change; ingrained.

Evangelical: of or according to the teaching of the gospel or the Christian religion.

Expound: present and explain (a theory or idea) systematically and in detail.

Fantasia: a thing composed of a mixture of different forms or styles.

Fraudulent: obtained, done by, or involving deception, especially criminal deception.

Humbled: lower (someone) in dignity or importance.

Incision: the action or process of cutting into something.

Inundate: overwhelm (someone) with things or people to be dealt with.

Kinetically: of or relating to the motion of material bodies and the forces and energy associated therewith.

Loon: a silly or foolish person.

Murk: darkness or thick mist that makes it difficult to see.

Needle-Nose: A person who carries his or her own straw for sniffing cocaine.

Ontological: relating to the branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being.

Prominent: important; famous OR situated so as to catch the attention; noticeable.

Psychosis: a severe mental disorder in which thought and emotions are so impaired that contact is lost with external reality.

Rabid: having or proceeding from an extreme or fanatical support of or belief in something.

Reciprocate: respond to (a gesture or action) by making a corresponding one.

Schizoaffective: characterized by or exhibiting symptoms of both schizophrenia and a mood disorder such as bipolar disorder or depression.

Seminary: a college that prepares students to be priests, ministers, or rabbis.

Sensual: relating to or involving gratification of the senses and physical, especially sexual, pleasure.

Taxidermy / 'taksə dərmē/: the art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals with lifelike effect.

Tradition: the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.

Triage: the process of determining the most important people or things from amongst a large number that require attention.

Vile: extremely unpleasant.

Zealously: with great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective.

Visuals

